

RIC 2004

Licensing Issues

Session W6

Licensing Activities & Issues for Operating Reactors

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Operating Reactor Licensing

- Operating reactor licensing activities among top four major activities in NRR (with new reactors, renewal and ROP)
- With exception of power uprates, most applications are relatively low profile and worked at the staff level
- Important to identify issues as early as possible to ensure appropriate resolution

Operating Reactor Licensing

- Effective communication is vital
 - With Project Manager regarding priority, importance, schedule
 - With industry organizations to develop and support generic approaches
 - With LATF regarding any process issues
 - With NRC staff and management regarding problems or possible improvements

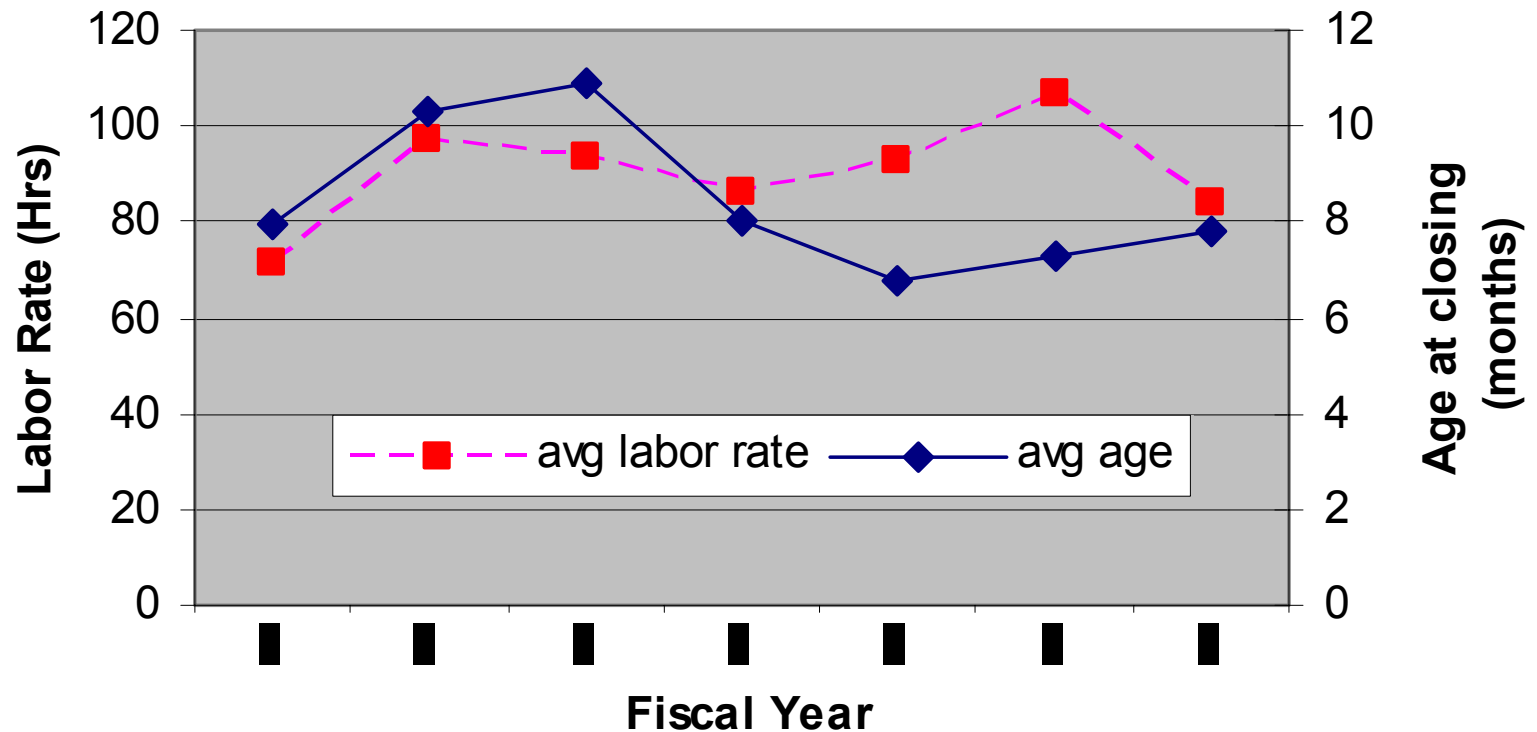
Operating Reactor Licensing

● Licensing Action Performance Goals

- Complete > 1500 Licensing Actions
- >96% of actions completed in less than year
- 100% of actions completed within 2 years
- Inventory < 1000

Operating Reactor Licensing

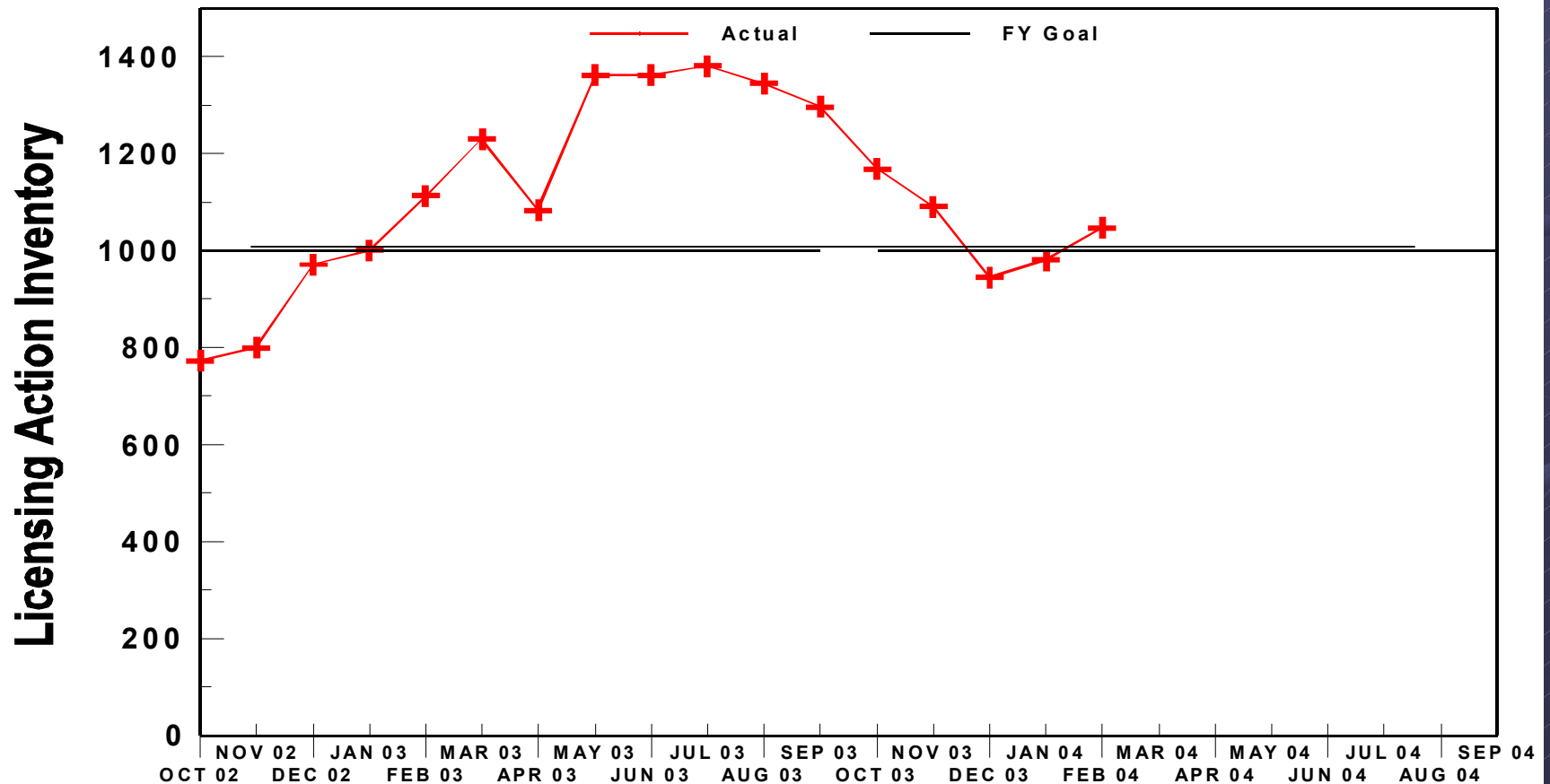
License Amendments



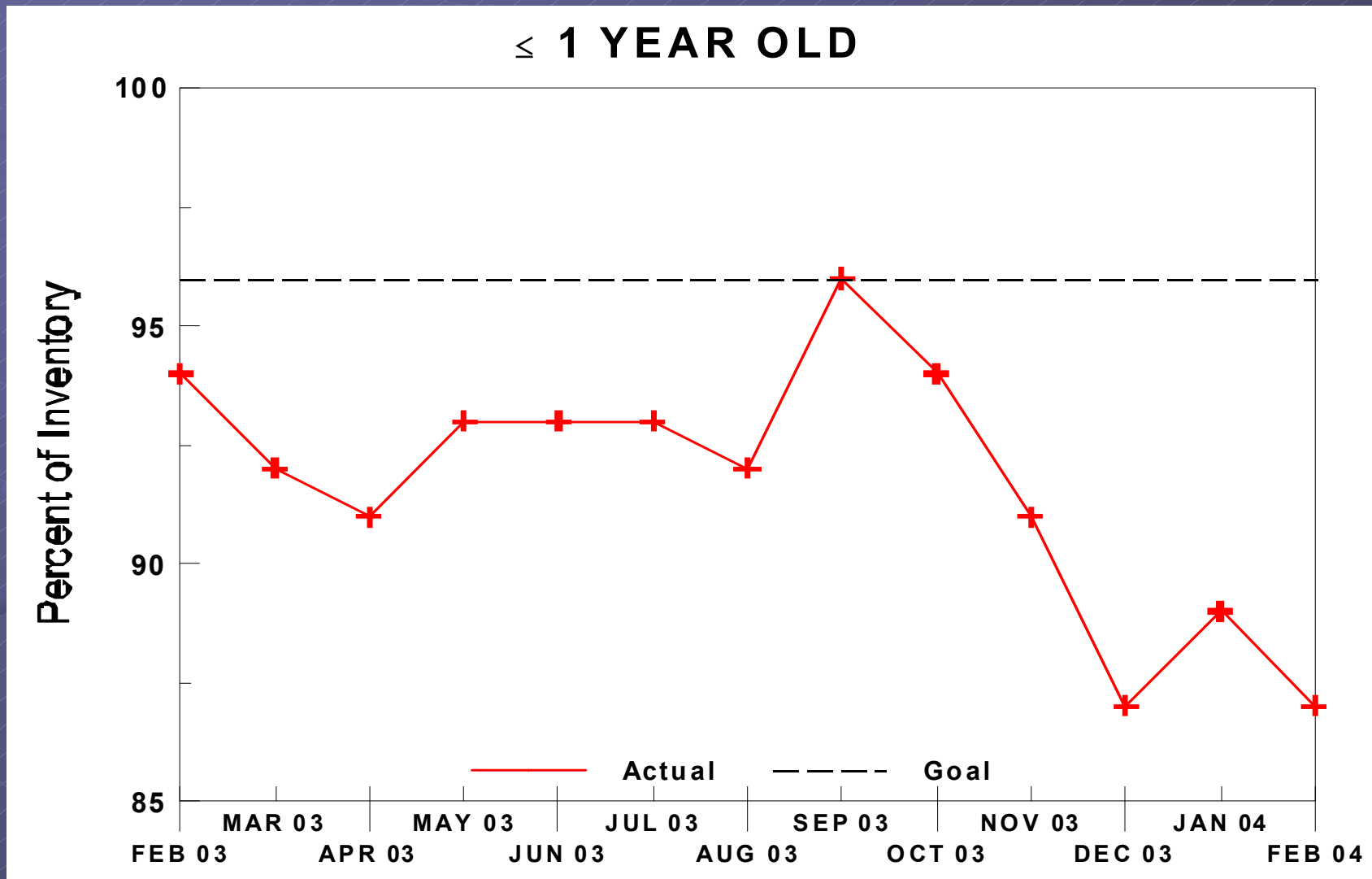
Current Performance Goals

Nuclear Reactor Safety - Reactor Licensing

Performance Plan: Size of Licensing Action Inventory



Current Performance Goals



Power Upgrades

- Review standard for EPU's (RS-001) issued in December 2003
 - First-of-a-kind document
 - Provides comprehensive guidance
 - Improves effectiveness, efficiency, and predictability
 - Improves communication
- Licensing review process and RS-001 focus on safety

Power Upgrades

● Challenges

- Steam dryer cracking and flow-induced vibration issues (EPU's)
- AMAG ultrasonic flow instrumentation (MURs)
- Interpretation of topical reports (Ref: June 25, 2003, letter from NRC to GENE)

Power Upgrades

- Steam dryer cracking and flow-induced vibration issues
 - NRC evaluating and assessing generic implications
 - NRC issued Information Notice 2002-26 and Supplements 1 and 2 regarding Quad Cities experience
 - NRC actively engaged with the industry
 - NRC considering regulatory options

Power Upgrades

- AMAG ultrasonic flow instrumentation
 - NRC closely monitoring unexpected, small differences in power level indications at Byron and Braidwood
 - NRC evaluating the potential impact of this issue on power upgrades
 - NRC considering if regulatory action is required

Challenges

- Competing demands
 - Resources (diverted to other programs, security plan reviews, special projects)
- Personnel turnover (many newer PMs and technical staff)
- Mixed acceptance of changing regulatory approaches
- Increasing requests to adopt changes that differ from longstanding standards and positions
- Need to address identified issues (e.g., LATF white papers)

Some Known Issues/Perceptions

- Need to improve how the revised 50.59 rule is incorporated in a coherent regulatory structure
- Use of precedents
- Requests for additional information
- Escalation of issues
- Specific issues (AST, setpoint methodology)